

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY FIRE INVESTIGATION TASK FORCE

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

A meeting of the General Membership of the Brown County Fire Investigation Task Force was held on July 22, 2015, at 6:00 p.m., at the Howard Fire Department, 2456 Glendale Avenue, Green Bay, WI.

Present: Joe Gabe, Greg Steenbock, Steve Yedica, Eric Johnson, John Schweitzer, Rob Gering, Gregg Staszak, Jim Weeks, Aaron Anderson, Karl Linsmeier, Brandon Dhuey, Joe Patenaude, Ron VanDenBusch, Matthew Omdahl, Jeff Krall, Angie Cali, David Konrath, Tom Hendricks, Doug Peters, Derek Wicklund, Kevin Krueger, Brad Neville

Item #1. Adoption of Agenda.

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

Item #2. Review Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Motion was made by Patenaude and seconded by Hendricks to approve the minutes from the last meeting on April 16, 2015. **Motion carried.**

Item #3. Report of Task Force Activities.

Members reported on the following fires they responded to since the last meeting:

04-27-15 1011 N. Danz Ave., Green Bay (apt. bldg./arson)
04-28-15 2237 University Ave., Green Bay (laundromat/accidental)
05-02-15 4183 Shawano Ave., Howard (machine shed/undetermined)
05-03-15 2341 Brice Ct., Bellevue (residence/dehumidifier)
05-08-15 3667 Park Rd., Morrison (duplex/accidental)
05-19-15 1750 Velp Ave., Howard (business/accidental)
05-22-15 1627 Arnold Dr., Green Bay (duplex/accidental)
05-26-15 1402 Swan Ridge Tr., Ledgeview (residence/dehumidifier)
06-12-15 2368 S. Overland Rd., Hobart (residence/fatal/under investigation)
06-20-15 1320 April Ln., Ashwaubenon (residence/vehicle/accidental)
06-28-15 725 Bordeaux Rue, Allouez (residence/accidental)
07-18-15 4061 Humboldt Rd., Humboldt (residence/under investigation)
A Brown County Sheriff's Office squad car started on fire from flares in the trunk.

It was noted that when DCI comes out to investigate a fire, they do the cause and origin. Your report should not reflect that—only what you did at the fire.

Item #4. Information from Board of Directors Meeting.

- 1) Turn in new applications to Konrath. Per the bylaws, annual background checks will now be conducted on members.
- 2) The fire investigation rig will be moved to the new Sheriff's Office storage garage at a date to be determined.
- 3) There are four open investigator positions on the Task Force. Interviews to be done around the time of the Board of Directors meeting in September.
- 4) The FIT certification deadline is November 1, 2015. It will be less expensive to take the exam if you are an IAAI member. IAAI membership dues will be reimbursed by the Task Force
- 5) The Board of Directors agreed to send everyone to the fall IAAI conference in Green Bay. Due to a home Packers game, the date has been changed to September 30-October 2, 2015.

Konrath explained that as administrator of the Task Force, he acts as liaison between the General Membership and the Board of Directors. If you have any questions or concerns, his phone number is 448-4226.

Item #5. Old Business.

No old business discussed.

Item #6. New Business.

- 1) Your reports need to go to the coordinator of the Task Force who will then distribute them to the appropriate jurisdiction.
- 2) Your reports need to be reviewed by a member of equal or higher certification before turning them in.
- 3) Copies of 1033 and 921 are available for study for the FIT exam. The exam is heavy on fire science. Get a copy of your FIT certification to Konrath.
- 4) The treasurer position was eliminated by the Board of Directors. There is approximately \$553 left in the account. There was discussion on what to do with this money. It was agreed to spend it on meals for meetings until exhausted. Motion was made by Dhuey and seconded by Steenbock that the remaining money to be turned over to the General Membership president and vice-president to keep track of until it is spent. **Motion carried.** There was also discussion on purchasing apparel for members. It was agreed that both investigators and interns should have some type of shirt or jacket to wear to fire scenes. Konrath will send an email out to members requesting what is wanted and go to the Board of Directors to request that it come out of the budget.
- 5) Discussion on attendance solutions. Steenbock feels that the Sheriff's Office should put an investigative sergeant on the Task Force. Konrath will check with the Board of Directors on this. It was brought up that maybe certain criteria should be met before the Task Force is

called out, which would reduce the number of callouts. Paid on-call status is not an option as it would cost too much. It was felt that the fire departments need to be re-educated on when the Task Force is needed at fires. It was suggested giving a PowerPoint presentation to departments or providing them with a CD of it. It was also suggested putting this on the agenda for fire chiefs and MABAS meetings.

- 6) The new Task Force coordinator will need to purchase a separate hard drive to store Task Force reports, photos, audio, video, etc.
- 7) Election was held for new General Membership president/coordinator due to Gabe stepping down. The floor was opened to nominations. Dhuey and Steenbock elected to run. Motion was made by Peters and seconded by Omdahl to close nominations. **Motion carried.** A secret ballot vote was cast by members. A tally of the votes resulted in Dhuey as the winner. Motion was made by Anderson and seconded by Hendricks to accept Dhuey as the new president/coordinator. **Motion carried.**

Item #7. Juvenile Firesetter Business.

No recent juveniles in the program.

Item #8. Other Business.

No other business discussed.

Item #9. Set Date, Time, and Location of Next Meeting.

The next meeting was set for September 10, 2015, at 7:00 p.m., at Suamico Fire Station #2, 2323 Northwood Road, Suamico, WI.

Item #10. Training.

No training held.

Motion was made by Steenbock and seconded by Neville to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried.** Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha Laurent
Recording Secretary